

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE

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FOL RPT NIAMEY 3402 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LAGOS, PARIS &  
USUN NEW YORK DTD 22 JUL 77

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 3402

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV,/ PORG, NI, NG

SUBJECT: FONMIN DISCUSSES OFFICIAL VISIT BY NIGERIAN CHIEF OF  
STATE

SUMMARY: OBASANJO ACCOMPANIED BY UNUSUALLY LARGE, HIGH-LEVEL  
DELEGATION VISITED NIGER JULY 17 AND 18. GON PUBLICIZED VISIT  
AS NORMAL AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED BUT PRIVATELY ADMITTED TO  
COMMONALITY OF POLITICAL CONCERNS AS WELL AS EXISTENCE OF MAJOR  
IRRITANT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. NIGEGHA WANTS NIGER TO RELINQUISH  
ITS OAU BACKED CONDIDACY FOR SUCURITY COUNCIL SEAT.

1. ON JULY 19 I MET WITH FONMIN DJERMAKOYE AFTER VISIT OF  
NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STAA. OBASANJO ARRIVED WITH UNUSUALLY  
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TOP HEAVY DELEGATAION WHICH INCLUDED COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS GARBA, (COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS  
SCHEDULED BUT COULD NOT COME BECAUSE OF CONFLICT WITH ECOWAS  
MEETING) COMMISSIONER FOR MINES AND POWER, GOVERNOR OF KANO  
STATE, GOVERNOR OF SOLOTO STATE AND OTHER FUNCTITCARIES.  
DJERMAKOYE PROTESTED THAT IT WAS QUITE NORMAL THAT TWO  
COUNTRIES, DISPARATE PJ YRZE AND POWER, BUT SHARING S MON

BORDERS, COMMON PEOPLES, COMMON RELIGIONS SHOULD MEET AT SUCH A LEVEL TO DISCUSS COMMON CONCERNS (THE SAME LINE APPEARED IN LE SAHEL). HE EMASIZED DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF MEETINGS, :9..3,58,& 5#-5 ,8&348- 8 9,)6 :97,546 285# 2#8:# ,8&34 #- .8/3\$ :9..8 89, -,\$ 5#-5 \$8 :7 89, #- \$ \*9:7 3\$ 9, 49:5 9\* :9..8 89,. FONMIN POINTED OUT THAT NIGER IS SMALL AND POOR BUT THAT NIGERIA, DESPITE ITS SIZE AND WEALTH, HAS PROBLEMS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND IN FACT HAS SOME PROBLEMS THAT NIGER DOES NOT SHARE, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS INTERNAL.WITH KNOWING LOOK HE INTONED QTE NIGERIA IS A FEDERATION, THAT IS ITS WEAKNESS. UNQUOTE

2. IN WHAT AT TIME APPEARED TO BE STRANGE SHIFT IN CONVERSATION, DJERMWKOYE SUDDENLY MENTIONED NOTE THAT HE HAD PRESENTED TO GON IN RESPONSE TO GON REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF ITS CONDIDACY FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT. OUR NOTE, WHICH WAS DELIVERED PRIOR TO OAU MEETING, SET OUT US POLICY OF WITHHOLDING COMMITMENTS TO CANDIDATE COUNTRIES UNTIL THERE IS REGINAL SUPPORT. THEN DJERMAKOYE VOLUNTEERED THAT NIGERIANS HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD NOT ABANDONED THEIR CANDIDACY FOR SEAT ON SELCURITY COUNCIL.

NIGERIA WOULD LIKE NIGER TO WITHDRAW ITS OAU-ENDORSED CANDICACY. BUT NIGER TOOK POSITION THAT ISSUE WAS NOT BETWEEN NIGERIA AND NIGER BUT BETWEEN NIGERIA AND OAU. OAU HAD MADE CHOICE AND NIGER IS NOT AT LIBERTY TOO DISREGARD THAT BC SION. WITH SOME EMPHASIS, HE POINTED OUT THAT OAU DECISION HAD BEEN COUCHED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN AN UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION IN SPITE OF EARLIER NIGERIAN RESO- UAION ABOUT NIGER CANDIDACY. JKERMAKOYE DESCRIBED THIS AS QTE BEING A BOLD AND VERY SERIOUS UNQTE SITUATION AND WITH GRIMACE PAINTED SCENARIO OF POSSIBLE NHBERIA CAMPAIGN AMONG MUTKL FRIENDS AND OAU MEMBERS TO CONVINQ THEM THAT NIGERIA IS BETTER SUITED THAN NIGER TO REPRESENT AFRICA IN SECURITY COUNCIL. PRINCIPAL FOCUS WOULD BE ON COMPARATIVE POPULATION CRISES HE FORESEES PERMANENTLY DEVASTATING CONSE- QUENCES FOR OAU IF NIGERIA MOUNTS SUCH CAMPAIGN. HE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT NIGERIA WILL DO. HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON EFFORT TO AMEND UN CHARTER WHICH HE THINKS WOULD BE DOOMED TO FAILURE.HE PROBED THIS TUNNEL FOR SOME SMALL LIGHT WHICH HE FOUND AND MAGNIFIED IN HIS COMMENT:QTE I THINK ABASANJO IS VERY WISE MAN. UNQTE

3. COMMENT:IT IS APPARENT THAT NIGERIANS ARE VERY 34897 -?975 3:74856 :97,:8) -,\$ IT SEEMS ALSO APPARENT THAT OBASANJO MADE THIS UNUSUAL TRIP TO TAKE MEASURE TD IS LITTLE BROTHER AND PERHAPS IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, AMITY AND FLATTERY TO MAXIMIZE FRIENDLY PERSUASION. THE QUESTION IS WHAT IF THIS DOES NOT WORK? NIGER GOVERNMENT

IS WEIGHING ITS OPTIONS BUT AT PRESENT APPEARS WILLING TO LET  
NIGERIA DECIDE HOW IT IS GOING TO HANDLE THIS BALL WHICH  
COULD BECOME HOT POTATO. WHETHER OR NOT NIGER BELIEVES THAT  
THIS VISIT WAS QUITE QTE NORMAL UNQTE IS IMMATERIAL, IT HAS  
ENJOYED FLATTERING AND UNUSUAL ATTENTION OF BIG BROTHER  
WHICH CANNOT ESCAPE ATTENTION OF REST OF AFRICA, THE WORLD,  
NOR OF NOGER'S SUBSTANTIAL HAUSA POPULATION. IN ADDITION  
NIGER MAY HAVE RECEIVED PROMISE OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.  
THIS WAS HEADY TRIP AND NIGER HFY HAVE A HANGOVER AND NIGERIA  
A HEADACHE.  
NOTICE FOR DEPARTMENT:DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS OAU COLLECTIVE. JAM  
ES  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FONMIN DISCUSSES OFFICIAL VISIT BY NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE SUMMARY: OBASANJO ACCOMPANIED BY UNUSUALLY LARGE  
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